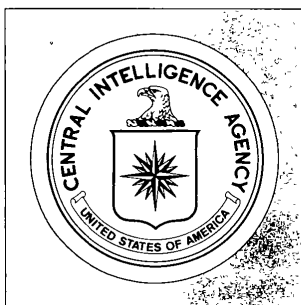




The President's Daily Brief

August 3, 1976

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LEBANON: *There has been little movement so far toward implementing the Syrian-Palestinian accord signed in Damascus last Thursday.*

The Palestinians have named four representatives to sit on the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian committee set up by the agreement to oversee a cease-fire. One is Faruq Qad-dumi, Yasir Arafat's chief political adviser who negotiated the accord. Arafat himself has said nothing further about his plans to visit Damascus to bless the agreement.

Arab League mediator Hasan Sabri al-Khuli has announced that the Syrian-Palestinian accord cannot be discussed until the evacuation of wounded from the Tall Zatar refugee camp has been carried out. A new attempt has been scheduled for today. Al-Khuli has reportedly obtained signed consent for the evacuation from all the Christian leaders responsible for the siege of the camp.

Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt announced over the weekend the formation of a new political council which he described as a step toward the creation of a united leftist front.

The council, of which Jumblatt is president, is clearly quasi-governmental. It is intended to establish civil administrations in leftist areas where none is now functioning; to cooperate with local administrations that do exist--and force them to cooperate if they balk; and to establish a popular security force, a popular army, and a popular militia.

Jumblatt's council will work to establish the supremacy of the more extreme leftist groups among the Muslims, a development that will make more difficult any eventual reconciliation with the Lebanese Christians.

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Fighting continued in the south yesterday, where the Syrians and some Christians are moving against the Palestinians near Rum on the road to Sidon.

The Syrians may have selected Rum for special attention because a regional Fatah headquarters is located there that presumably supervises the resupply of the Palestinians through Sidon's port.

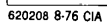
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KENYA-UGANDA: *Kenya and Uganda have agreed to hold talks, beginning this week in Nairobi, on settling their dispute.*

Secretary General Eteki of the Organization of African Unity arranged the meeting during his recent visits to Kampala and Nairobi. The willingness to hold talks has reduced the chance of military action for the time being, but differences between the two countries will not be easily resolved.

Kenya is unlikely to end its restrictions on deliveries of petroleum to Uganda--which are causing critical fuel shortages in that country--until President Amin withdraws his troops from the border. Nairobi will also insist that Amin withdraw claims to Kenyan territory and guarantee the safety of Kenyans in Uganda.

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NOTE

Cuba is trying to gain influence in the smaller English-speaking islands of the Caribbean and may be having some success in Dominica--one of five mini-states associated with the UK.

Cuba apparently endorsed a plan initiated by the premier of Dominica to host a "Caribbean nationhood" conference of socialist leaders to promote independence in the eastern Caribbean. The premier is said to be interested in establishing closer contact with Havana and particularly in obtaining Cuba's assistance in setting up some sort of paramilitary youth organization.

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[REDACTED] Havana is willing to provide economic and other assistance to all independent Caribbean nations except Grenada--whose prime minister Cuba regards as unreliable and unstable. Dominica is expected to seek independence from the UK in 1977.

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